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Issue 172 January 10th 2014

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weekender announcements

18 — BEN MCDOUGALL
HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY ON 10/01/2014
Lots of love from Mum, Dad, Connor & Jack x x x

17 — HAPPY 17TH BIRTHDAY LIAM BROWN
ON 11TH JANUARY 2014
Love from Grandma & Grandad Ambrose x x x

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CALLUM SMALL
LOVE MUMMY, PAUL, FLORENCE, MAX, JADE, ZOE & GRAN AND GRANDAD CHARD

80 — HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY
ON 10TH JANUARY
Jean Spurdle
Made hundreds of cakes
Always gave a helping hand
From all your Winsham Friends

17 — HAPPY 17TH BIRTHDAY LIAM BROWN
Love Mum, Dad, Darren, Claire, Ellie, George, Matt, Abbi & Kyron x x x

18 — LOVE TO BEN MCDOUGALL
WHO IS 18
ON 10/01/2014
From Nanny, Nandad & Auntie Tina x x x

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WEEKENDER PEOPLE

New era for engineer Mark

PROFILE

FOR Mark Baker of M Baker Engineering, near Ilminster, the New Year has hailed a new era for his business, having become a franchise for new sales, service and parts support dealer for McCormick tractors.

Farmers in South Somerset have increased sales, service and parts support following the appointment of Mark Baker's engineering business, based at Ashwell, near Ilminster, as a main dealership for McCormick tractors.

It's a big step for Mark, as this is the first time he has entered the competitive world of new tractor sales. But he relishes the opportunity to develop his business and, potentially, create more jobs.

He said: "Until now, we've always focused on servicing and repairing any make of tractor or implement that farmers bring us. We'll continue with that but with greater focus on McCormick products. Becoming a main dealer for a major tractor brand is a bit daunting but it's also too good an opportunity to miss."

Mr Baker learned his spanner-wielding skills as an apprentice at the Cullompton branch of a large agricultural machinery group before moving to the local McCormick dealer. He later started out on his own as a "man with a van" and, over the past seven years, has built his business and reputation carrying out repairs and servicing work, most recently from premises at Ashwell .

Steve Cann, area sales manager at McCormick distributor AgriArgo UK, said: "When the McCormick territory in the area became available to a new dealership, Mark was the obvious candidate for it. He does a good job providing workshop services to loyal customers and can now put his past McCormick experience to good use."

The same goes for experienced McCormick technician Ali Haine, who was joined a few months ago by Mark Wareham in the workshop, and for Dave Fox whose lifetime career in parts means he knows McCormick tractors and their predecessors carrying the Case, IH and David Brown brands inside out.

To make the most of the opportunity, Mr Baker and his team now occupy larger premises at Ashwell, with a bigger workshop and more space to store a greater selection of parts. An indoor tractor showroom is being prepared alongside a retail shop for hand tools, work clothing and consumables such as oil and filters, batteries and general fixtures and fittings. There are also refurbished sales and administration offices.

■ **GREAT OPPORTUNITY: Mark Baker welcoming expanding his business**

"Preparing the building is hard work but it's worth the time, late nights and investment," said Mr Baker.

"I want to make the most of this opportunity. Together with proven engines with good fuel economy, I think the new 'X' generation McCormick tractors will appeal to all the different types of farms we serve.

"They will have new cabs and control technology bringing increased driver comfort and appeal, new powershift and stepless transmissions, and more equipment options for greater efficiency and versatility".

Mr Baker is just one of many local business forging ahead and looking to a positive future.

Are you interested in taking part in our 60 Second Interview or Profile features to promote your business, organisation or event? Contact Marion Draper on 07771 641 506 or email marionsview@aol.com

Contact us . . .

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Funding roll out for flood-hit homes

By Marion Draper

A THREE-pronged bid to help flood-hit home owners and communities has been unveiled by Somerset County Council.

The council is proposing more than £250,000 in funding to help those hit by floods. It comes on the back of £300,000 of funding towards schemes that help prevent flooding in the first place.

The proposals will see a £50,000 grant to help people suffering hardship after flooding at home; £200,000 in grants available for flood schemes;

£300,000 available to work in partnership with other agencies to begin to dredge key rivers, including the River Parrett; and a commitment to lobby government and the Environment Agency for extra flood prevention funding for Somerset.

Cabinet member David Hall said: "We really understand how traumatic it is when your home, business or community suffers flooding and we want to act quickly to help.

"The £50,000 is a one off hardship grant and is vital money for people to help in a crisis. We did this last year and it was very well received by those in need. We believe it is right in the current situation to help once again.

"Last year we also made £200,000 available for individuals and communities to bid for funding to help prevent flooding. This year we are considering the same again, with a further £200,000. These small grants can make a huge difference, and we are keen to ensure that parish councils and community groups are directly involved to ensure maximum benefit to their areas

"We have already put aside £300,000 for river dredging. This money will be made available to the Environment Agency and we are working with others to boost this fund. This work includes lobbying government and government agencies for additional contributions."

Justin Sargent, chief executive of the Somerset Community Foundation, said: "Thanks to the grant from Somerset County Council we will be working with parish councils, local authorities and other community leaders in the coming days and weeks to make sure everyone who may be eligible for emergency relief grants can access the funds swiftly.

"We are also now expanding the scope of our Surviving Winter appeal to include the most vulnerable households affected by the flooding and we encourage anyone who wishes to help those most affected by the floods to donate. Donations can be made via our website www.somersetcf.org.uk or call us on 01749 344949."

Details of how to apply for an emergency flood relief grant are now available on the Somerset Community Foundation web-site www.somersetcf.org.uk

South Somerset District Council have had a busy Christmas and New Year period, responding to calls for help after heavy rain caused severe flooding in many areas.

Flood warnings were issued in many parts of the district by the Environment Agency and, with the water still potentially rising in the rivers, along with the run-off of water from the fields, there is still the danger of flooding in some parts of the district.

The district council's Streetscene Services Team were out this week delivering sandbags to those properties that had requested them. As of Monday, the team had gone through 40 tonnes of sand and delivered an estimated 3,500 sandbags and self-inflating gel bags to households.

Flooding on roads caused the council's teams great difficulties in getting around the district, further hampered by the fact that most of the trucks the teams use can only carry a maximum of 40 sandbags before they reach the maximum weight limit of the vehicle. High winds have also caused the authority further complications, with trees falling down and therefore manpower having to be diverted to felling trees rather than delivering sandbags.

Staff have been working over the past few weekends under the coordination of the civil contingencies manager to ensure sandbags still get those who request them out of normal working hours.

Councillor Jo Roundell Greene, portfolio holder for environment and economic development, said: "I am exceptionally proud of the way in which my team has worked in the most difficult of conditions to help people out in their time of need. I know that their work will have saved many families from suffering the anguish of a flooded home and I have been particularly happy to receive a number of compliments both about the speed of the district council's response and about the cheerful manner of our staff when delivering the much needed sandbags."

As the rain continues to fall across South Somerset, residents are advised to keep up to date with flood warnings by checking the Environment Agency website and listening to local weather via radio or television. Residents are also advised to be prepared by buying sandbags in advance and thinking about how they can protect their property in the future with the use of flood boards.

South Somerset District Council has a policy to issue gel bags and sandbags free of charge (six per doorway) to residential properties only upon request, if the property is in immediate danger of flooding. Should residents require sandbags, they should call 01935 462462. Additional sandbags can be purchased from the district council at a cost of £3.20, subject to availability.

Somerset County Council's Highways team also had a busy start to the Christmas period dealing with flooding.

The council received 275 calls on December 23rd, responding to more than 150 reports of hazards in the road, including fallen trees and other debris, and more than 50 incidents of drains and gullies blocked by branches.

There were 10 teams working on flooding issues and a further 10 tree contractors dealing with fallen trees throughout the day. These numbers were doubled overnight on December 23rd when a further 100 calls were received.

Councillor John Osman, leader of Somerset County Council, said: "I'd like to pay tribute to all our staff and contractors who have been working flat out to keep Somerset's roads clear in the pre-Christmas rush.

"It's at times like these that the county council seems at its most vital – going the extra mile to help the public. Thank you to everyone for their efforts."

On New Year's Day the Highways Team responded to 43 call outs across the county.

Keep up to date with the latest on the roads by following @SomersetCouncil or @SomersetGritter on Twitter. To report a fallen tree or other problem on the highway visit www.somerset.gov.uk or call 0845 345 9155.

Festival favourite announced

AS the 43 Christmas trees were removed from the Church of St Bartholomew in Crewkerne last Friday, the most popular ones voted for by the public were announced.

Out of a total of 283 votes made over the three-day Christmas tree festival, the Crewkerne Gardening Club won the majority again with its all -natural decorations, including Old Man's Beard, pressed leaves and angels made from seed packets with hips for heads and sycamore seeds for wings. The prize was collected by Pat Clayton who decorated the tree with Karen Manning.

Hot behind them with only two votes in it was the tree decorated by Somerset Partnership NHS Trust, adorned with party masks and feathers, and with matron on the top for the angel. The Quirky Quilters were third.

The most popular children's entry was from Ashlands Schoolm which was all white with paper angels, Christmas trees and snowflakes crafted by the pupils. Festival co-ordinator Hilary Leamon said the fact they had to reduce the number of trees this time due to a new heating system in the church had actually made it better.

She added: "We had so much praise from everybody because less trees made it better, people were able to see them more and the standard was very high."

Donations for the church were accepted during the three-day event, which totalled about £450.

■ MOST POPULAR: Pictured right, Hilary Leamon congratulates Pat Clayton from the Crewkerne Gardening Club

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Mosaic honours town's history

A SUPPORT group in Chard has unveiled the first of three mosaics, which will be displayed at the refurbished Chard Hospital.

Members of Working All Together in Chard (WATCH), a support group which aims to connect those that feel isolated in the community with new friends and new skills, have worked together to produce the artwork based on local health and well-being, incorparting the town's history.

The art project was funded by Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and was carried out with the help of Crewkerne sculptor, Richard Langford.

Everyone taking part in the project input their ideas in to the design, with many inspired by Chard's history, with reference to flight, lace making and artificial limbs incorporated into the design. Hands are the centrepiece of the design as it is the logo of the group.

Ceramic artist Kate Bartholomew, who tutors members at WATCH, showed them how to use lace patterns a slab of clay by rolling it on and firing it, this became a cloud in the sky of the mosaic.

FIRST OF THREE: Julie Matthews, Sue Flynn, Edward Colgan, Richard Langford, Richard Dellow and Kate Bartholomew

Mr Langford said the museum had been very helpful with the research for the mosiacs and hoped that a landscape artist or someone with an old landscape picture of Chard might like to come forward to help with some ideas for the next project piece.

Chief executive officer of Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Edward Colgan attended the unveiling to receive the mosaic and was impressed by the quality of the work. Also attendeding the event was county councillor Jill Shortland OBE, Head of Information and Management Technology at Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Sue Flynn.

Project Manager Julie Matthews then thanked the individuals and organisatiosn that had help cupport and fund WATCH throughout the past year, including Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Yarlington Hosuing Group, Paul Philpott, community development officer at South Somerset District Council and Chard Town Council for enabling them to purchase new laptops for a computer class, and Somerset Community Foundation which signposted them to other funding options.

Ms Matthews added how delighted she was that WATCH had won a tender with Somerset Foundation Trust to offer peer support training for the whole of Somerset.

Animal sanctuary launches new annual visitors' pass

FERNE Animal Sanctuary near Chard, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, has extended its visitor areas over the years and become a popular destination for a family day out.

The charitable trust has now announced the introduction of a new annual pass, for all visitors coming to enjoy the sanctuary.

Suzie Beament, acting fundraising and marketing manager, said: "The visitor pass will help to ensure that money donated to the animals cared for at the sanctuary, need not be spent on maintenance or repair of publicly used facilities.

"Sadly donations made in the boxes located on the sanctuary have halved over the past few years; we greatly hope that this small charge to our visitors will encourage supporters to come and enjoy the sanctuary again and again in the knowledge that their contribution goes towards supporting a local charitable cause.

"Please come to reception on your next visit to Ferne Animal Sanctuary to be issued with your visitor pass and again to get a stamp each time you visit to qualify for a grand prize draw."

The cost of a visit is just £2 a year for an adult, £1 for a child (three-16 years), or £5 for a family of up to two adults and three children.

Group passes are available on enquiry.

Separate charges apply for special event days. People and companies visiting on sanctuary business will not be required to pay admission.

THE Sunday Bingo Club in Chard presented their last cheque of 2013 for monies raised at their monthly sessions.

Howard White received a cheque for £400 on behalf of The Royal British Legion.

The Total raised at these monthly sessions in 2013 was £4,371.

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Campaign for school defibrillators continues

By Marion Draper

THANKS to a Tatworth mother and her fundraising campaign, Holyrood Academy has become the latest school in the area to obtain a defibrillator, which could save a life incase of heart attack.

In February last year Linda Kellaway, whose son Charlie has a rare heart condition, decided to support the Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS) UK Big Shock Campaign, to place defibrillators in schools, by raising the money to get one placed at Tatworth Primary School.

The response to her fundraising efforts was so impressive that she has now raised £6,690 and been able to fund five of the machines.

During Holyrood's inset day on Tuesday, January 7th, Mrs Kellaway and her son were welcomed by the new school principle, Martin Brook and watched as staff were given instructions on how to operate their new defibrillator by instructor Tom Jackson, assistant community responder officer.

Staff learnt how simple the electronic machine was to use as it speaks directions and can be used on children as young as one year old, as well as adults, as the technology automatically adapts the charge given to the chest according to age.

Mrs Kellaway was delighted to have been able to donate so many machines and would like to thank everyone who took part in her sponsored cycle ride and other fundraising events last year, and to schools for taking the devices on board.

Mr Brook thanked her for the donation and commended her and Charlie on their efforts.

A spokesperson for SADS UK said: "The charity is delighted that SADS UK Big Shock Campaign to put defibrillators into schools is being so well supported in the south west, Linda Kellaway is doing a fantastic job raising awareness and funds to assist. We are pleased that Holyrood Academy will now benefit from their potentially lifesaving equipment. If cardiac pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is used, it gives a person a five percent chance of survival, but coupled with using the defibrillator, it increases the chance of survival to more than 50 per cent. This is why SADS UK and our members are so passionate about putting this lifesaving equipment in place."

Tatworth's machine is a public access machine and is situated outside the school for the use of the whole village.

LIFE SAVERS: Holyrood Academy staff with Principle Martin Brook, Jennifer Gent (medical room assistant) Tom Jackson assistant Community Responder officer (east), Charlie and Linda Kellaway

Keeping shoppers entertained

RAISING money for the Children's Hospice, Southwest, and other Rotary charities, members of the Rotary Club of Chard entertained Christmas shoppers, at Tesco, as they have done most years.

President Robert Rollings, thanking the management of Tesco, said how pleased the club was to be allowed to collect there once more.

The shoppers were most generous, donating more than £750 during the two mornings.

Police appealing after Boxing Day burglaries

POLICE are appealing for information about two burglaries in Chard on Boxing Day that they believe are linked.

They particularly want to hear from anyone who may have seen a blue Audi A4 Quattro Sport saloon, which was stolen from Victoria Avenue in Chard, being driven in the town. It may also have been in the Windwhistle area, near Crewkerne, that evening.

The Audi, which has since been found in Yeovil, was taken after a burglary at a house in Victoria Avenue. There was another burglary that evening in England's Way, where an iPad and a handbag were stolen. It is believed the offender or offenders left in the direction of the A358 in the Audi or possibly a silver Ford Ka.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Matt Lorimer at Yeovil DTT quoting reference number 128973/13.

A 29-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of burglary and bailed.

Twinning quiz night

THE Chard Helmstedt Twinning Society recently held a successful Kaffee und Kuchen Morgen (coffee and cake morning) at Trivetts, Combe St. Nicholas, which raised £137 for the society's funds.

The twinning society's next event will be a quiz evening at the Lordleaze Hotel on Sunday, January 26th starting at 7.30pm.

Walter Youll has organised this event and everyone is welcome attend.

This year twinners will be visiting Helmstedt in August. If you are interested in joining the society please contact the secretary on 01460 62449.

Late Christmas party for senior citizens

By Marion Draper

ILMINSTER senior citizens enjoyed a New Year Christmas lunch on Saturday, January 4th thanks to the annual team effort of volunteers from the Lions Club, Masonic Lodge and Rotarians.

Everyone pitched in to get the older members of the community to the Shrubbery Hotel, where they were waited on for a traditional Christmas dinner with entertainment and a raffle supplied by Tesco.

The Mayor of Ilminster, Councillor Emma Jane Taylor, was in attendance to welcome the guests and later swapped her chain for an apron and joined her mother, Councillor Carol Goodall, and daughter Jess at the sink.

The annual dinner has become a firm favourite with the senior citizens and marks the first Saturday of New Year with true community spirit and is made possible due to donation and dedication.

■ DOING THE DISHES: Councillor Carol Goodall and granddaughter Jess Taylor washing up

■ SOUP IS SERVED: Volunteers from the Masonic Lodge line up to do their duty

■ OUR TURN: Rotarians Linda Vijeh, Ken Dewsbury and president Terry Bate. Above, some of the Ilminster diners

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■ SUPER DRAW: Tesco community champion Nicky De Ath, Stephen Maull and the Mayor of Ilminster, Councillor Emma Jane Taylor

■ WELL EARNED BREAK: Members of the Nyanza Masonic Lodge in Ilminster between servings

Council vote for development on east side of town in Local Plan consultation

By Marion Draper

AFTER two hours of debate at a special meeting of Ilminster Town Council, members opted to support development in the eastern side of the town as part of the Local Plan consultation.

The special meeting was held at Swanmead School on on Monday in front of a large audience of local residents.

Despite the planning inspector favouring the western development on the grounds of the sustainability study, previous members of the town council had preferred the eastern end, based on its own local consulation. An ongoing argument as to whether future development should be to the east or west of the town continues to divide opinion in the town.

The Local Plan consultation period was extended until today (Friday) to give Ilminster Town Council time to give their response.

Having read a great deal of evidence and heard a number of members of the public speak in open forum, the councillors were each given a chance to voice their own views before the final recorded vote was taken.

The main argument against developing in the west (Canal Way) was given as Herne Hill being of great significance to the town in terms of historical value and as a tourist attraction, as well as popular with local people, and visions of a "skirt" of housing around it was "unthinkable".

Another argument was that that the tenants of Coldhabour Farm would lose their livelihood and it would take people too far from the town centre, creating a "dormitory town". Councillor Linda Vijeh said that the county council had promised additional land to the farm for it to continue.

On the eastern side there were objections to the use of farm land for development and the additional flood risk, as well as environmental impact from infrastructure.

Four councillors were absent from the meeting and of those attending, the vote went in favour of the eastern option.

Councillor Roger Swann proposed they adopt the Shudrick Lane option, seconded by Councillor David Miller with Councillors Val Keitch, Sophie Storey, Carol Goodall and the Mayor, Councillor Emma Jane Taylor, supporting. Voting against were Councillors John Pallister, Stuart Shepherd and Linda Vijeh, with Councillor Andrew Shearman abstaining.

South Somerset District Council leader Ric Pallister pointed out to everyone in the hall that this was by no means a done deal and that the whole process of consultation could be repeated if there were enough objectors to make them take another look.

He added a word of caution that, in the meantime, any planning application on either site which came forward would have to be viewed upon its own merits and developers were very aware that until the Local Plan was firmly in place, they had a chance to get a foothold.

The mayor read out a statement at the beginning of the meeting to lay to rest rumours in the town that there had been secret meetings of the council and decisions already taken on the matter. She said that councillors had been given a workshop, particularly for the benefit of the newer members, to bring them up to speed with the information already collated and the consulation process.

Robert Drayton, a spokesman for the Save Shudrick Valley Group, commented after the meeting: "The decision by the town council was no more than we expected. But what did surprise us was the fact that there were only six votes in favour. Three councillors voted against, there was one abstention and four absentees.

"The petition from campaigners in Canal Way states that the town council is 'strongly behind the Shudrick Lane development' - six out of 14 councillors is not even 50 per cent and is not a great mandate, certainly not strong support.

"The mayor mentioned there was a petition signed by 316 people in Canal Way against development there, but failed to tell the meeting that a similar number of people support the Save Shudrick Valley Campaign. There was a better attendance by opponents of development in Shudrick Valley than residents of Canal Way, so the council also cannot claim to have public opinion on its side.

"Of the issues raised, the council and residents at Canal Way have expressed concern over Herne Hill. The concept plan for development in Canal Way shows housing only on the flatter fields, not those immediately below Herne Hill, and the hill itself would not be affected. The development area shown would be smaller anyway because it currently shows more houses than the town requires.

"It was again made clear by the district council that if the option for direction of growth is changed yet again with a fourth attempt at getting it through, and the plan is then deemed unsound by the inspector, then we could face a planning free-for-all and that is not in the town's best interests."

Station open day a steaming success

The Friends of Crewkerne Station recently held an open day at the the station ticket office where they held an exhibition and raffle.

Chairman Tony Reese said that South West Trains had allowed them to set up camp in the office where they held an exhibition on the history of the station.

In the old pump house there was a showing of a DVD of steam in the local area and a model railway thanks to a portable generator from Robbie Heyd Smith and John Coleshill's model trains.

Social secretary for the FOCS group, Heather Sargeant, was very grateful for the support for the raffle from local businesses and would like to thank the following for their contributions: Bilbeys, Superbuy, Home Bakery Cafe, Petals, Barrett's Butchers, Rodfords, No 31, Health and Harmony, McKinlays, Waitrose, Loopy's, The Mender's, LM Properties, The Pet Shop, Naturalife, James Hardware, Delilah Petal, Boots, Countrywide and Thorncombe Railway Activities Club.

DIANA Crossman, young railway fan Madison Davies, and the Mayor of Crewkerne Robin Pailthorpe

She said: "It was a very successful and enjoyable morning and we made £144 on the raffle which will help to keep the plants and station looking good in the future.

"The chairman Tony Reese, would like to thank every body for their support and particularly those friends who helped at the open day and wish them a Happy New Year.

"The station open day was a great success. Visitors were impressed by the history exhibition, which featured photos and press cuttings from the past and input from Robert Salter, whose father had worked at the station for many years. Colin Robins, who started his railway career there, guested with his book of the days of steam which can be purchased from the Friends."

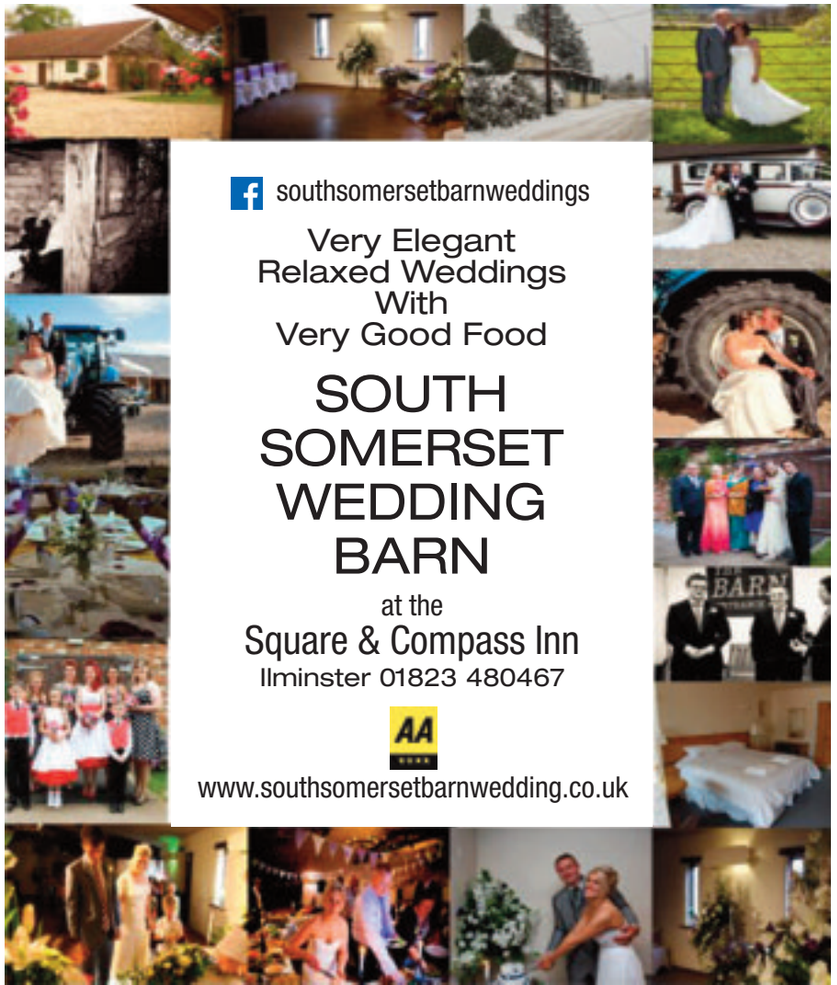
Diana Crossman, leader of the history group had been loaned a picture painted by the Rothbury artist Paul Thurston. Brian Denning who owns the picture, which can normally be seen at the museum, had bought it at an auction in Crewkerne.

Gail Coleshill, secretary, contacted the artist who said it had it been painted such a long time ago he wasn't sure why, or for whom.

She said that: "He thought it was for the landlord of the then Railway Tavern but we would love to hear from anyone who knew the landlord or the pub back in the last century and can shed some light on this."

New shop takes the prize

NEW SHOP WINS: Brian Forster with Lien Gough, outside her nail salon Lilybelle who won the Crewkerne Area Business Chamber annual Christmas window dressing competition and is seen here receiving her £50 first prize and the winner's shield.



Now that is charity!

Providing water for life

WATER SURVIVAL BOX

Supported by Pulman's View View From Newspapers and The Weekender Series

By Geoff Baker

A GOOD friend of mine with a few quid to spare recently visited the London headquarters of a leading global charity with a view in his wallet to giving some money to the needy. He was horrified at what he saw.

"It was opulent," he said, "I have never been in such a plush office in my life; they must have spent tens of thousands of pounds on decorating the place and it made me wonder how much of the money from the collecting tins had been spent on the furnishings."

My friend left the building without giving that charity one penny.

Charity is often big business these days as the argument goes that when you are collecting and distributing vast sums it needs to be done on business lines; professionally accounted, attractively-presented and with businesslike remunerations like healthy expenses and whacking big salaries for those at the top who administer the good work.

The trouble is, does that stick in your craw?

Certainly some of the more lucrative aspects of the charity business gets the goat of more than a few of us; look at the row that recently blew up when it was discovered that Comic Relief invests a portion of our heart-tugged donations in the arms business. What, a number of us asked, was Comic Relief doing investing in anything, let alone in the industry of killing?

Surely, we argued, the point of a charity was to get the money in, buy aid with it and then get that aid straight out to those who need it, because if lives depend on our giving how long were those lives expected to just hang on while share portfolios come into profit?

I know that's a simplistic view, but that doesn't mean it's a wrong one.

Nor is it wrong to feel a bit "oo-err" over the fact that the chief executive of Comic Relief is paid £120,000 a year.

Mind you, he's not alone, you can earn very nicely running a charity these days. Look at the British Red Cross; *The Daily Telegraph* recently revealed that the boss of that admirable institution earns £184,000. In the same article the *Telegraph* shocked me rigid by reporting that Save The Children's CEO trousers £163,000 and indeed that 30 British charity chiefs earn more than £100,000 a year.

Little wonder that the Charity Commission has criticised the do-good business for "the risk of bringing the charitable world into disrepute".

Although some of us, well, me at least, feel that St Andrew's Healthcare, the UK's biggest mental healthcare charity, is doing a pretty good job promoting that risk on its own.

Last year St Andrew's Healthcare paid its boss £653,000. In his defence a spokesman said words to the effect that he works very hard. Fine, but don't we all, luv?

I'll tell you where they work very hard and that's over in the cold, little warehouse in Midsomer Norton that is the HQ of a charity called World Water Works – www.worldwaterworks.org – run by the Chelwood Bridge branch of the Rotary Club.

There's no plush offices at a posh West End address here. What cramped office space that they do have is rented off and shared with a haulage company, and is situated down a bleak, nondescript road on an industrial estate.

Nobody who works at World Water Works is paid for it and nobody gets expenses either. But boy, do they work hard.

World Water Works is in the disaster business. When a natural disaster hits, be it floods, earthquake, hurricane, drought, the Rotarians drop whatever they are doing, roll up their sleeves and get to work with the business of saving life immediately.

They do this by packing boxes. Not any old boxes but the Water Survival Box, a brilliant piece of plastic kit which contains all that you need to stay alive when a natural disaster has robbed you of everything, including – and most importantly – a simple water purification system that will provide a family of four with clean water every day for a year. Because without clean water, you're dead.

When a disaster hits the news, team leader Hugo Pike hits his email and tracks down the nearest Rotary District to the disaster zone to message them that this marvellous emergency rescue is go. The message is starkly simple: "Do you need help? We can send it."

Then the team works 16 hours a day, seven days a week flat out packing boxes. When they have packed enough to make up a plane load, pallets of the survival boxes are express couriered to the disaster zone where Rotarians at the other end quickly get them out to those who are dying of thirst. Simple, effective, job done, lives saved.

To date, almost 12,000 water survival boxes have kept families alive in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, the Far East and South America.

But of course, like any charity, World Water Works can only work if our donations help to pay for the boxes. Which is why, impressed by their Spartan efficiency, Devon, Dorset & Somerset Newspapers Limited, the publishers of this newspaper, have committed to a two-year charity campaign in association with the Rotary Club of Chelwood Bridge.

We were impressed because there's no salaries, no expense accounts, no company cars nor posh, luxury offices. At Chelwood Bridge, there's just giving.

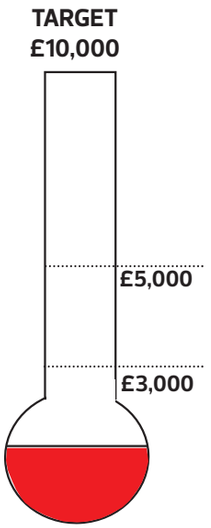
"We just do what Rotary was established to do," says Hugo Pike, modestly, "It's our motto – service above self."

Now that is charity. Please help.

In a bid to raise £10,000 over two years for Water Survival Box, we are encouraging our readers and local organisations in East Devon, South Somerset and West Dorset, where we distribute in excess of 40,000 papers every week, to organise an event for Water Survival Box.

Our staff are also planning a number of fundraising events and so far we have raised £1,000.

If you would like to organise an event, telephone James Coles on 01297 446155 and we will help promote your event in our columns.



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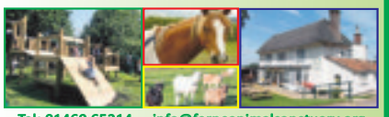

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Robert Stone & Co

Small businesses in Somerset MUST learn the difference between tax avoidance & tax planning in 2014 if they are to avoid being targeted by HMRC says tax expert Robert Stone

SMALL and medium businesses (SMEs) in Somerset must learn the difference between tax avoidance and tax planning if they are to survive the Government's £9 billion clampdown on tax avoidance schemes next year, which it will be pursuing through The Finance Bill 2014. According to West Country tax expert Robert Stone: "SMEs are exactly the type of businesses that HM Revenue and Customs has targeted extremely aggressively so far in its bid to recoup a reported £35 billion "tax gap", which is made up of avoidance schemes, illegal tax dodging and underpayments. Although HMRC has been criticised heavily by MPs for concentrating on smaller businesses and individuals, rather than gunning for multinational organisations and Swiss bank account holders, there is no reason to suggest that they will divert attention from "the man in the street" in favour of pursuing global corporations."

The Finance Bill 2014, which was published in draft form on 10 December 2013, includes a package of tough legislative measures that are specifically designed to tackle unpaid tax. The proposed legislation has entered a period of consultation, which will end on 4 February 2014. Some of the key measures introduced by the Finance Bill, which Robert Stone feels are particularly relevant include:

Dual Employment Contracts - if a person lives overseas and works overseas for part of their employment, it has been common practice to set up two parallel employment contracts (dual contracts) for that person. One contract would deal with earnings taxable in the UK and the other would apply to overseas earnings. From 6 April 2014, UK tax will apply on both contracts, unless a higher amount of tax has been paid on the overseas earnings than in the UK.

Employment intermediaries - from April 2014, fresh anti-avoidance rules will apply to umbrella companies who manage contractors in a number of industries. HMRC will go after contracts, which supposedly supply the contractor as a self-employed person.

Charity Schemes - legislation will be introduced to prevent a charity from being entitled to claim charity tax reliefs, such as Gift Aid, if one of the main aims of establishing the charity was tax avoidance.

Disguised employment through limited liability partnerships - this is aimed at LLPs, which HMRC believe exist mainly as an arrangement to avoid National Insurance Contributions on the pay of individuals who are described as partners, but who are in fact employees.

However, the real problem, as Mr Stone sees it, is that the boundaries between illegal tax evasion and legal tax avoidance are becoming increasingly blurred. "It is vitally important that businesses seek professional advice on all issues of tax planning before engaging in any schemes that HMRC view as tax avoidance."

According to Mr Stone, the new definition of tax avoidance seems to apply to any moves designed to minimise tax by exploiting the law or loopholes in a way not anticipated when the law was made. "We undertake tax planning on a daily basis and endeavour to ensure that our clients pay the right amount of tax, but no more than is necessary, by using tax law and reliefs in a proper way."

Legitimate Tax Planning Tips

There are a number of ways in which businesses can structure their affairs using options, which are clearly defined as legitimate by law:

For businesses this may mean deciding what structure they should use – sole trader, partnership, Limited Liability Partnership or limited company. The choice of these structures can have a considerable effect on tax liabilities, and providing that the decision made makes commercial sense, this is legitimate tax planning.

Most people do not come across taxes on capital gains and inheritance very often and their knowledge of these can be very limited. A good Chartered Accountant's role is to find out what their clients' plans may be and to help them achieve these while ensuring that they do not pay more tax than is due.

Some tax planning advice is very simple, such as suggesting that an individual starts saving in a tax free ISA (Individual Savings Account) to ensure that they are not needlessly paying more tax than they should on their savings income.

"Most of our clients may grumble from time to time about the amount of tax, which they have to pay," said Robert Stone, "but they know that when they ask us for advice, we will ensure they pay exactly the right amount of tax and that we will not allow them to overstep the boundary into tax avoidance".

Robert Stone is available to give legitimate advice on tax planning for businesses and tax payers at all stages of their lives. Telephone Robert on: 01460 55661 or email him: robert@robert-stone.co.uk. Alternatively visit www.robert-stone.co.uk

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As a client of Chalmers & Co you will be assigned to one of the directors of the firm, who will be your main contact. The directors and staff aim to be available to you whenever possible. You can be confident that your questions or problems are being handled by someone who understands your situation.

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Langport 01458 252323
The Old Emporium, Bow Street, Langport, Somerset

The Gateway to stream Bolshoi's Jewels

The Seaton venue welcomes in the New Year with a varied collection of shows

See page 14

Royal Academy of Dance Ballet
Street Dance, Hip Hop, Disco
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Classes in Crewkerne, Chard, Ilminster, Norton Sub Hamdon, Yeovil & surrounding villages

Excellent tuition, Outstanding, Examination results, lots of performance opportunities, lots of fun!

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or visit www.helenlaxtonschoolofdancing.com for details of our acting, singing, stage dance, Performing Arts School

PILATES

IF AT 30 YOU ARE, YOU ARE STIFF & OUT OF SHAPE - YOU ARE OLD! IF AT 60, YOU ARE SUPPLE & STRONG - YOU ARE YOUNG!" JOSEPH PILATES

MON - 2.00PM - WEST CHINNOCK HALL
MON - 4.00PM - EAST CHINNOCK HALL
TUE - 9.30AM MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL
WED - 6PM C/CHURCH HALL, CREWKERNE

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CREWKERNE WEEKLY MARKET

NEW LOCATION IN MARKET SQUARE

Every Wednesday - 9am to 1pm

Fruit & veg, bread, pastries, fresh fish, herbs & spices, plants, yarn, tools & much more...

For more information call Crewkerne Town Council on 01460 74001
or visit www.crewkernetown.org/TownCouncil

ILMINSTER
arts centre
AT THE MEETING HOUSE

Branston Annual Open 2013 Winners Exhibition
Until Saturday 25th January
Open Daily (except Sunday). Free
Talented prize-winning artists from 2013's Branston Annual Open present an inspiring mixed exhibition of artwork.

Dave Newton Trio with Alex Garnett and Dave O'Higgins
Friday 31st January at 8pm
Tickets: £15. Pre-show Supper £11 at 7pm (advance booking required)
Mainstream jazz enthusiasts get set for a memorable evening of jazz with top UK jazz pianist Dave Newton, and top UK sax players Alex Garnett and Dave O'Higgins.

Booking details: 01460 54973
www.themeetinghouse.org.uk
info@themeetinghouse.org.uk
East Street, Ilminster, Somerset. TA19 0AN.
Open Mon-Fri 9.30-4.30, Sat 10.00-2.30.

The Gateway merrily rolls along into the New Year

THE Gateway in Seaton welcomes in the New Year with a varied selection of shows throughout January.

CinemaLive and Digital Theatre are thrilled to present the acclaimed revival of Stephen Sondheim's ***Merrily We Roll Along*** from London's West End, and The Gateway in Seaton will screen the performance.

Triple Olivier Award-winner Maria Friedman makes her thrilling directorial debut with this vibrant, full scale production and exceptional cast led by Mark Umbers, Jenna Russell and Damian Humbley.

Set over three decades in the entertainment business Merrily We Roll Along charts the relationship between three close friends Franklin, Mary and Charley.

Travelling backwards in time, this powerful and moving story features some of Stephen Sondheim's most beautiful songs including 'Good Thing Going', 'Not a Day Goes By' and 'Old Friends'.

Merrily We Roll Along was captured during the productions final performances at the West End's Harold Pinter Theatre, which followed a sell-out run at the Menier Chocolate Factory.

Tickets for *Merrily We Roll Along* at Seaton's Gateway on Wednesday, January 15th, cost £12.50 in advance, or £15 on door, and are available from The Gateway Box Office on 01297 625699.

Inspired by the famous jewellers of New York's Fifth Avenue, Bolshoi Ballet's performance of ***Jewels*** is a tribute to women, and to the cities of Paris, New York and St Petersburg.

Choreographed in 1967 in New York City, this ballet, with its jewel-like costumes, celebrates the three cities and three dance schools that forged the elegance, aesthetic and style of choreographer George Balanchine. Emeralds was conceived as a poetic tribute to the French romantic school and Rubies to the American tradition of Broadway musicals, while Diamonds honours the virtuosity of classical Russian dance

The Gateway in Seaton will be streaming the performance of *Jewels* on Sunday, January 19th. Doors open 3pm, with the performance starting at 4pm. Tickets, costing £15 in advance or £17.50 on the door, are available from the Town Hall box by calling 01297 625699.

Joey the Lips gigs are performed as a 'Show', rather than solely a rendition of the music. The band enjoys it that way and hope that comes across to their audiences.

It's now a huge 17 years 'on the road' during which the band has played over 1000 gigs throughout the UK and Europe across a huge variety of venues. From TV chat shows to headlining to a 10,000 audience at music festivals. From being booked to support Girls Aloud and Will Young, to performing at the British Formula 1 Grand Prix at Silverstone in 2011, and at celebrity weddings, most recently for Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langsford.

In November 2005 BBC1 again commissioned the band to appear live on TV for Children in Need. More recently the band have been booked to support Girls Aloud and in 2010 perform as support act for Will Young.

Joey The Lips will perform at The Gateway on Saturday, January 25th.

Tickets cost £12 in advance, or £15 on door, and are available from The Gateway Box Office on 01297 625699.

The Henhayes Centre
in Crewkerne
LOOK WHAT'S ON
Open to all 5 days a week for lunch, tea or coffee 9am to 4.30pm and Saturday mornings for coffee or tea and cakes from 10am to 12noon
The Centre can also be hired
SATURDAY 25th JANUARY
ENGLISH BREAKFAST/BRUNCH
From 10am to 12 noon
£4.00 basic breakfast
Extra options from 50p
And 100 CLUB DRAW at 11am
Date for your diary
MONDAY 27th JANUARY
BURNS LUNCH
2 courses with tea and coffee
£7
Wee dram available
Booking essential
The Henhayes Centre,
South Street Car Park, Crewkerne
Tel: 01460 74340
www.henhayes.co.uk

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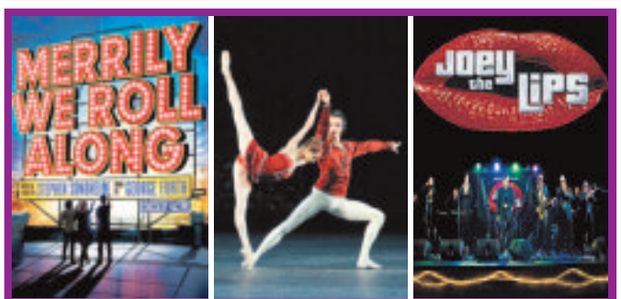
One and a half miles outside Chard on the A30



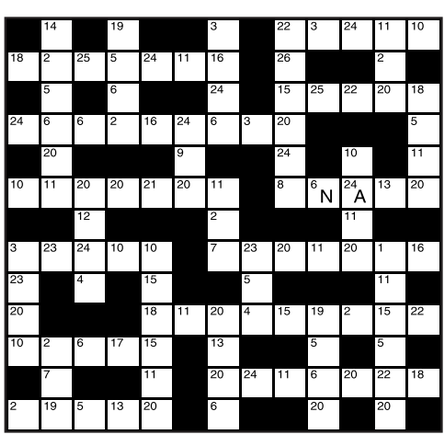
MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG
Wednesday
15th January,
Doors 6pm
£12.50 in advance
£15.00 on the door
Bolshoi Ballet
JEWELS
Sunday
19th January,
Doors 3pm
£15 in advance
£17.50 on the door
JOEY THE LIPS
Saturday
25th January,
Doors 7.30pm
£12.00 in advance
£15.00 on the door
The Gateway
Seaton Town Hall, Fore Street, Seaton, Devon, EX12 2LD
Tickets available from the box office,
Seaton Town Hall
01297 625699
Check out future events at
www.seatongateway.co.uk

Brain Gym

No.255

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6 N	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24 A
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 K	2 L	3 D	4 R	5 B	6 A	7 C	8 P	9 E	10 G	11 V	12 H	13 W
14 F	15 S	16 Z	17 J	18 U	19 Y	20 X	21 M	22 N	23 O	24 Q	25 I	26 T

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

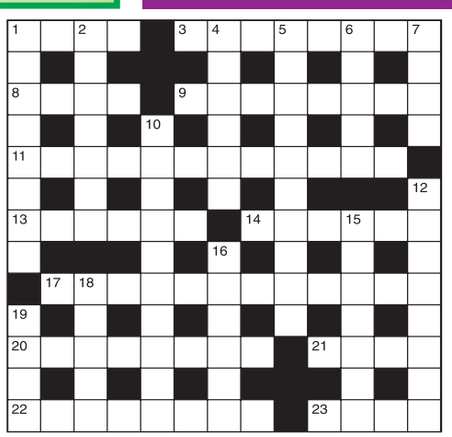
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Loud part of the play - and that's the truth (4)
3. Aromatic plant to sell in real variety (8)
8. Strains the affected person will give himself (4)
9. See 17 Across
11. Another stock market speculation - to control the rate of clothing? (12)
13. Three will show approval (6)
14. Provide with physical cover (6)
17 & 9 Ac. What the doctor with no respect for his patient may be doing (8,4,8)
20. Newspapers, maybe, for travelling attendants (8)
21. Box for a piece of the rigging (4)
22. Not allowing the current deposit to mount up (8)
23. Describing part of the Kalahari Desert (4)

Down

1. Those competing in it would wear running kit - jumpers would be out of place (4-4)
2. Red transport belonging to me (7)
4. Stir up a stratagem about nothing (6)
5. This study could provide a gloomy tone (10)
6. Crude monster is a fiend at heart (5)
7. Assess the charge (4)
10. Superficially covering too much betting? (10)
12. Edward takes in anaesthetic, strictly controlled in movement (8)
15. One who falls for the tourist (7)
16. The answer's a lemon! (6)
18. The way to defeat the East (5)
19. The man who is unable to get to the service would be (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Small inlet of the sea (4)
3. Bias (8)
8. Eminence (4)
9. Flag (8)
11. Self-contradictory (12)
13. Awning (6)
14. Lethargy (6)
17. Impolite (12)
20. Begin (8)
21. Dam (4)
22. Lengthened (8)
23. Brink (4)

Down

1. Persuade (8)
2. Papal government (7)
4. Involve (6)
5. Make up (10)
6. Once more (5)
7. Orderly (4)
10. Examination (10)
12. Pickle (8)
15. Advance (7)
16. Elusive (6)
18. Ass (5)
19. Prevalent (4)

Sudoku

9	6					7		5
			6	1				3
3		4			5			
		3			2	5	9	7
	7			9				
5	4	9	7			3		
			9			2		6
		6		3	8			
2			4				7	9

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	6	9	7	5	8	4	1	2
4	2	1	6	3	9	7	5	8
8	5	7	1	4	2	9	3	6
7	4	5	3	8	1	2	6	9
9	1	8	2	6	7	3	4	5
6	3	2	4	9	5	1	8	7
1	7	6	5	2	3	8	9	4
5	8	3	9	7	4	6	2	1
2	9	4	8	1	6	5	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Shipwrights; 9 Netball; 10 Farce; 11 Onset; 12 Siskins; 13 Mobbed; 15 Albino; 18 Trouble; 20 Oiler; 22 Okapi; 23 Stood up; 24 Penetrating. Down: 2 Hates; 3 Piastre; 4 Relish; 5 Gifts; 6 Termini; 7 Information; 8 Seismograph; 14 Brocade; 16 Look-out; 17 Teaser; 19 Bride; 21 Laden. QUICK - Across: 1 Thoughtless; 9 Dungeon; 10 Merge; 11 Lodge; 12 Settled; 13 Stress; 15 Reason; 18 Enclose; 20 Enter; 22 Crime; 23 Unusual; 24 Investments. Down: 2 Honed; 3 Useless; 4 Honest; 5 Limit; 6 Strolls; 7 Adolescence; 8 Leading role; 14 Ruction; 16 Execute; 17 Result; 19 Obese; 21 Trust.

Warner Leisure Clubs

Enjoy some fun fitness this winter

at Cricket St Thomas Leisure Club.

Here at Cricket St Thomas Leisure Club we offer a varied programme that will enable you to work hard & have fun, helping you follow through with those New Year resolutions.

Our facilities offer people of all fitness abilities the opportunity to exercise, relax & meet likeminded people.

Join us this January
& you will receive

- ✔ "No Joining Fee" on all 6 &12 month upfront payments.
- ✔ £15 Beauty Salon Voucher
- ✔ Entry into our 4* Holiday Draw (Details in green box)

- Work out at your own pace in a comfortable & friendly environment.
- Gym programmes designed to meet your needs. Just the way you like it.
- Exciting classes to spice up your fitness routine & socialise with other members.
- Wonderful grounds to enjoy some outdoor fitness & a breath of fresh air
- Finish off your hard work with a relaxing swim or spend time in our heat therapy rooms.

Facilities include:

- ✔ 17m Swimming Pool
- ✔ Sauna, Steam Room & Tropicarium
- ✔ 25 station air conditioned Gym
- ✔ Studio Classes – Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, Zumba, Aerobics, BOKWA, Hula
- ✔ Beauty Therapy Rooms
- ✔ Tennis Court
- ✔ Outdoor Activities – Archery, Rifle Shooting & Nordic Walking.
- ✔ Food & Beverage facilities.
- ✔ Extensive grounds for walks all year round

Join us on a 12 month upfront membership this January, February or March & we will enter you into our prize draw to win a holiday at Holme Lacy House Hotel in Hereford, one of our 4* hotels

Call today on **01460 30975** or
e-mail at **leisure.cricketstthomas@bourne-leisure.co.uk**
for any further information.

Membership starts from as little as £37 per month.

Diary Dates

FRIDAY JANUARY 10TH
CLAPTON: Clapton & Wayford Village Hall - lunch club, mid-day for 12.30pm start. All welcome, but please book places in advance by phoning 01460 77057.
CREWKERNE: Sequence Dancing at the Victoria Hall, 1.45-4pm. For more details call 01308 862866 or 01935 823506.

SATURDAY JANUARY 11TH
HINTON ST GEORGE: 'Flix in the Stix' presents film: 'About Time' (cert 12A). In the village hall at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room, or £5.50 on the door. To reserve tickets please call 01460 72906.

SUNDAY JANUARY 12TH
DONYATT: Big Breakfast at Donyatt Village Hall, from 9am-12noon. Held every 2nd Sunday of the month.

TUESDAY JANUARY 14TH
CHARD: Chard WI Meeting at 7.30pm at the Baptist Church Hall, Holyrood Street. Visitors and new members welcome. 2nd Tuesday of every month (Excluding August).
CREWKERNE: Are you over 70 or do you know anyone over 70? Come to The Henhayes Centre at 10am for either a cup of tea and biscuits and stay until 2.30pm after enjoying a wholesome lunch. All this for £6.50 (including a session charge). Transport can be arranged. Please call 01460 74340 for more information

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15TH
CREWKERNE: Bingo at Henhayes Centre – cash prizes – "eyes down" at 2.30pm.

THURSDAY JANUARY 16TH
CHARD: Chard Camera Club practical evening, depth of field/focus. Presidents Portfolio competition results.
HORTON: Horton Film Club showing 'Casablanca' at Horton Village Hall, from 7.30pm. Doors open 7pm. Non-members welcome from 7.15pm. Pay £4 at the door.
CREWKERNE: Over 50s Keep Fit at Henhayes Centre. Class begins at 10am and costs £3 for non members.

FRIDAY JANUARY 17TH
CREWKERNE: Sequence Dancing at the Victoria Hall, 1.45-4pm. For more details call 01308 862866 or 01935 823506.

SATURDAY JANUARY 18TH
SEAVINGTON ST MARY: Fundraising dance with 'Kalibre' for Children's Hospice South West at Millennium Hall. £6 at the door. No bar BYO. Free tea and coffee. For more details call 01935 881510.
WHITELACKINGTON: Bric-a-brac/Table Top Sale in the village hall (TA19 9EF). Tables £5, to book call 01460 259565. 10am-1pm. Ample parking, refreshments available

MONDAY JANUARY 20TH
CREWKERNE: Crewkerne Awareness meeting, with guest speaker Linda Fathrop on Astrology. At the Meeting Room, Unitarian Chapel from 7-9.30pm Admission £2.50 (includes light refreshments. All welcome. For more details call 01460 78673

TUESDAY JANUARY 21ST
CREWKERNE: Bingo at George Reynold's Centre, Crewkerne. Doors open 6.30pm for 7.30pm eyes down. In aid of Crewkerne Football Club.

TUESDAY JANUARY 21ST
CHARD: Film: 'Blue Jasmine', presented by Screen at the Guildhall. At The Guildhall, Fore Street. Admission £5 (no concessions). Doors open 7pm, film from 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY JAN 22ND - SATURDAY JAN 25TH
CREWKERNE: CUDOS Pantomime - Cinderella. At Victoria Hall, from 7.30pm each night, and a matinee at 2.30pm on Saturday. Tickets, costing £7/£6 concessions, available at Community Office or by calling 01460 74380.

FRIDAY JANUARY 24TH
TATWORTH: Film: 'Blue Jasmine' (cert 12A) at Tatworth Memorial Hall, doors open 7.15pm, film 8pm. Organised by T&F Movies. For more details call 01460 220198.
CREWKERNE: Sequence Dancing at the Victoria Hall, 1.45-4pm. For more details call 01308 862866 or 01935 823506.

THURSDAY JANUARY 30TH
CHARD: Chard Camera Club - inter-club competition against Wellington Club at Chard Baptist Church Hall, Holyrood Street.
CLAPTON: Local resident Anne Mosscrop will recreate her trip to Antarctica in an illustrated Travel Talk at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall. Entrance, £3.50 includes cheese & wine; proceeds to be shared between Christian Aid & Village Hall. All welcome; do come & join us for a most entertaining evening; Anne is well known for adding plenty of humour to her talks. Further information from 01460 74849.

FRIDAY JANUARY 31ST
CREWKERNE: Sequence Dancing at the Victoria Hall, 1.45-4pm. For more details call 01308 862866 or 01935 823506.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7TH
CREWKERNE: Sequence Dancing at the Victoria Hall, 1.45-4pm. For more details call 01308 862866 or 01935 823506.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH
CHARD: Chard WI Meeting at 7.30pm at the Baptist Church Hall, Holyrood Street. Visitors and new members welcome. 2nd Tuesday of every month (Excluding August).

Forthcoming Events in Chard Guildhall

Every Sunday 10:30am
FOREFRONT COMMUNITY CHURCH
Church Service - All welcome

Every Tuesday
09:30 am and 11:30 am & 7.30pm
SLIMMING WORLD

Every Thursday, 8am - 2pm
ANTIQUES FAIR
Books, china, jewellery & much more
Now also available for Food and Craft stallholders
Customer admission free, refreshments and lunches available
For further information contact 01460 239 567

THURSDAYS 8am - 2pm
CAFÉ OPEN

Every Saturday
CHARD STREET MARKET
8.30am to 2.00pm.
New stall holders always welcome
Please ring 01460 239567

15th, 21st & 29th January 2014
"MEETING VOICES COMMUNITY CHOIR"
in the town hall from 7.30pm – 9.15pm
New members always welcome.

Saturday 1st February 2014
9am - 12.30pm
POPULAR FAYRE
Admission Free, refreshments available

Saturday 1st February 2014
10am - 11am
COUNCILLORS' SURGERY

Monday 10th February and Tuesday 11th February
BLOOD DONORS

Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm
CHARD TOWN COUNCIL RECEPTION

We have many other events taking place.
For further details please contact
Chard Town Council,
The Guildhall, Chard
Tel: 01460 239 567
WWW.CHARD.GOV.UK

CINEMA LISTINGS

Friday, Jan 10th - Thursday, Jan 16th
ALL LISTINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

YEOVIL CINEWORLD
Yeo Leisure Park, Old Station Rd
Tel: 0871 200 2000
www.cineworld.co.uk

American Hustle [15]
Daily: 14.00, 17.00, 20.20, plus Sat & Sun: 10.50am
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug [12A]
Fri-Wed: 12.20, 15.50, 19.30, 20.30
Thu: 12.20, 15.50, 20.30
Frozen [U]
Fri, Mon-Wed: 12.30, 15.10, 16.20, 17.50, Sat & Sun: 11.30, 12.30, 14.10, 15.10, 16.50, 17.50, Thu: 15.10, 16.20, 17.50
Mandela: The long Walk To Freedom [12A] Fri, Mon-Thu: 13.10, 16.40, 19.50, Sat & Sun: 16.40, 19.50
Last Vegas [12A]
Daily: 13.00, 15.30, 18.00, 20.40
Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs 2 [U] Sat & Sun: 10.10am
Justin and the Knights of Valour [PG]
Sat & Sun: 10.20am
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire [12A] Daily: 13.30
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones [15]
Fri-Wed: 19.20, 21.30, Thu: 19.20
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues [15]
Fri, Mon-Thu: 12.40, 15.20, 18.10, 21.00
Sat & Sun: 15.20, 18.10, 21.00
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty [PG]
Fri, Mon-Thu: 13.20, 18.20, 20.50
Sat & Sun: 18.20, 20.50
Walking With Dinosaurs [U]
Daily: 16.00, plus Sat & Sun: 11.40, 13.50
The Railway Man [15]
Daily: 14.20, 17.10, 20.00, plus Sat & Sun: 11.30am
Delivery Man [12A]
Daily: 13.40, 16.10, 18.40, 21.10
Moshi Monsters [U]: Sat & Sun: 11.20am

TAUNTON ODEON
Heron Gate, Riverside
Tel: 0871 22 44 007
www.odeon.co.uk

American Hustle [15]
Daily: 13.30, 19.50
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues [15]
Daily: 15.10, 18.00, 20.50
Delivery Man [12A]
Daily: 16.00, 18.30, 21.00
Devil's Due [15]
Thu: 16.45, 19.00, 21.15
Frozen 2D [U]
Daily: 11.40, 14.20, 17.00
Frozen 3D [U] Sat & Sun: 12.40
Last Vegas [12A]
Daily: 12.45, 15.15, 17.40, 20.15
Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom [12A]
Fri, Mon-Thu: 12.00, 16.40, 20.00
Sat & Sun: 16.40, 20.00
Moshi Monsters: The Movie [U]
Sat & Sun: 10.45am
Reef 2: The High Tide [U]
Sat & Sun: 11.00am
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 2D [12A]
Daily: 12.00, 15.30, 19.10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D [12A]
Fri-Tue: 16.30, 20.10, Wed: 20.10, Thu: 16.30
The Railway Man [15]
Daily: 12.15, 15.00, 17.45, 20.30
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty [12A]
Fri-Wed: 14.00, plus Sat 11.15am, Thu: 14.00
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D [U]
Daily: 13.40, plus Sat & Sun: 11.30am

What's Happening at Ilminster Arts Centre

by Sara Loveridge

WHAT better way to start the New Year than with a visit to Ilminster Arts Centre? In the galleries we welcome back the **Annual Open Winners 2013** until 25th. Generously sponsored by Branston Ltd, this exhibition features work by the Overall Winner, Joint Second Winners, Highly Commended artists and winner of the Visitors' Choice Award from last year and promises to be an inspiring mixed exhibition of artwork. To enter the Annual Open 2014 or Photography Open 2014 please contact the Arts Centre.

Two local artists - Brian Cocks and Billie Willcocks - join together for the first time to bring some exciting new work to the Arts Centre in an exhibition called **Two of a Kind** from 28th. Billie works from her garden studio near the Dorset coast to create spontaneous paintings in mixed media and oils, while Brian produces acrylic paintings that capture the essence of sea and shore or particular weather conditions.

The exhibition continues until 15th February.

Mike Denham's SpeakEasy with Tom 'Spats' Langham on 17th has now sold out but we do have top UK jazz pianist **Dave Newton** returning with his trio plus special guests **Alex Garnett** and **Dave O'Higgins** for an unmissable evening of jazz on 31st. Fans of mainstream jazz will delight in this combination of players which includes two of the UK's finest tenor saxophonists.

Whether searching for original pieces for the home, unusual jewellery or bags, or even if you just enjoy a good browse there is no better place than our **Antique and Vintage Collectables Fair** which takes place on 18th.

But if retail therapy is not your thing, why not try some art therapy to banish those winter blues instead? We have a range of workshops to choose from starting this month with **Clay** (Mondays) **Watercolour** (Tuesdays), **Oil Painting** and **Drawing** (Wednesdays), **Readers' Group** (starting 10th), **Knit Tog**, **Crochet Too** (starting 16th), **Felt Making** (starting 17th), **Willow Hearts** (25th), and **Rag Rugs** (starting 31st), with further classes starting in February and beyond. For full details why not pop in and pick up our new brochure or check out our website: www.themeetinghouse.org.uk. Happy New Year!

Booking details:
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Sold Out Concert raises Over £1500 for Church Lychgate

CLASSICAL musician Joe Fisher and friends entertained a full capacity audience in Merriott's All Saints Church on a stormy evening Friday evening before Christmas. The evening raised a staggering £1,532 towards the Lychgate repair, and was achieved by Local Sponsorship and donations for the concert to reduce event costs, and of course a sell-out of over 200 tickets, and a raffle that raised over £250 alone!

The evening was Joe's 5th Annual Carols and Classics concert for the church, and was a mixture of instrumental solos, duets, quartet, and quintet classical works, in addition to festive arrangements, all performed enthusiastically by these extremely talented young musicians from London. The audience participated in community carols, and were enthralled by the evening's performances especially the Piano Quintet by Schuman, and a beautiful rendition of Silent night as a piano duet with a festive finale with hand bells. This piece was used as an encore that left the church in complete silence as the final bell tolled, followed by thunderous applause by the audience.

The concert was sponsored by local Crewkerne businesses' Stokes Partners LLP , A.J. Wakely & Sons, Stoodley & Sons, Lawrences Auctioneers, and Merriott Pharmacy of Merriott, as well as Musician sponsorship and general donations by the villagers of the Merriott.

The evening was truly successful evening for both entertainment and fund raising, and left the appreciative audience waiting for the next series of concert during 2014 especially a Carols & Classics 6.

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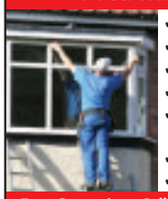

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Introducing the all-new Seat Leon Cupra And Cupra 280

SEAT today unveils the quickest and most powerful series production car it has ever made: the SEAT Leon Cupra 280.

The Cupra 280 sits at the top of a five-strong family of brand new Cupra models that begins with the 265 PS Leon SC Cupra and ends with the five-door Cupra 280 DSG

Every Leon Cupra completes the benchmark 0-62 mph sprint in less than six seconds, while all manual versions return exceptional 44.1 mpg average fuel consumption.

But the Leon Cupra is a car whose development was led by the pursuit of dynamic excellence. To that end, every Leon Cupra comes as standard with a mechanical front axle differential lock, a progressive steering system that sharpens the turn-in for improved agility, DCC dynamic chassis control to alter the suspension settings between sportier or more comfort-oriented, and two-stage deactivation of the electronic stability control (ESC) – including the ability to turn it off entirely.

These are on top of fundamental changes compared to the previous Leon Cupra: the new Leon is built on an all-new chassis, with a wider front track and fully independent suspension front and rear.

The Leon Cupra models embody the SEAT brand values in the best possible way. They combine exhilarating dynamics, state-of-the-art technology, stunning design, premium quality, outstanding efficiency and excellent everyday usability.

"With the new Leon Cupra, the SEAT brand is once more taking a major leap forward. The Cupra is a refined, high-performance car that combines its expressive dynamics with relaxed long-distance comfort and a compelling, high-quality feel," says Jürgen Stackmann, CEO of SEAT S.A. "Driving fun and great design comes with every Leon, but the new Cupra displays SEAT expertise in a whole new dimension. We are proud of this new brand icon and certain of its success."

The drive: stunning performance as standard

Cupra stands for power, performance and dynamics – and the new Leon Cupra and Cupra 280 have all those qualities in abundance. The Cupra 280, with optional DSG transmission, catapults from zero to 62 mph in just 5.7 seconds, or 5.8 seconds with the six-speed manual gearbox equipped; every Cupra model has a 155 mph limited top speed.

The 350 Nm maximum torque of both versions spreads from just 1,750 rpm all the way up to 5,300 rpm, guaranteeing impressive pulling power and overtaking flexibility.

Against this, the new Leon Cupra is astonishingly efficient. The average fuel consumption for both power variants is just 44.1 mpg with a manual gearbox equipped, and 42.2 mpg with DSG. This equates to CO2 figures of just 149 g/km and 155 g/km; by comparison the second generation Leon Cupra R with 265 PS emitted 190 g/km CO2.

The engine: cutting edge technology

As a true sports engine, the 2.0 TSI turbo petrol unit of the Leon Cupra and Cupra 280 reacts spontaneously to every movement of the accelerator pedal and is wonderfully high revving. This is paired with a rich and refined sound that is aided and modulated by a standard sound actuator.

▲ SEAT introduces the new Leon Cupra and Cupra 280

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Peugeot posts excellent retail sales figures for 2013

PEUGEOT'S popularity with UK retail customers has gone from strength to strength during 2013, with healthy new car registration figures for the year. Demand for the striking all-new Peugeot 2008 Crossover has been one of the highlights. Launched in July, an impressive 3,792 have been registered since – 35% above the new model's objective.

There was more success in the Supermini Segment where Peugeot registrations reached more than 45,000 units, compared with 35,000 during 2012 (207 and 208 combined). 208 registrations were 38,616 across the UK. Combined, the 208 and 2008 sales represented a B-segment increase of 28%.

Also pleasing is that the high-performance and high-specification 208 GTi and XY models accounted for 10% of the model's volumes. Both have orders which are significantly higher than projected targets, with the GTi a massive 60% above expectation.

In the retail segment, Peugeot saw registrations increase by 6,637 over 2012. In a market up 15.6%, Peugeot was up 15.8%.

Across the whole UK new car market, the brand registered 105,435 cars during 2013. That's almost 6,000 higher than in 2012.

Peugeot Dealers have also seen a very strong mix of sales in favour of higher specification cars, with Allure and Feline models up by a massive 30%. This move reveals that Peugeot's brand strategy of moving up market and brand strengths – high quality, well-specified cars at value for money pricing – is proving popular with customers.

Unlike many rival brands, Peugeot also has a significant presence in the LCV market. Here there was further success; annual registrations were 21,409 units, equal to a 7.7% market share.

Neil Moscrop, Sales Director at Peugeot UK, commented: "During the last 12 months we have implemented a strategy which, backed by great new product, included a planned reduction in volumes in certain sections of the business, such as national daily rental. To have grown our retail share substantially over the same period is excellent news."

Moscrop added: "Everyone at Peugeot is looking forward to a great 2014, with this month's launch of the New 308 – already shortlisted for European Car of the Year – the RCZ R and the New 308 SW."

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04 04 Renault Scenic 1.9DCi, 6 speed, Silver....£2,495

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06 06 Nissan Murano 3.5, Garnet, Heated Black leather, Sat Nav, R/Camera £7,495
06 56 Fiat Sedici 1.9 Diesel Eleganza 4x4, Stone, (Same as suzuki SX4)....£5,495
05 54 Toyota Rav4 XT3 5Dr, Graphite, ESR £5,495
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03 03 Honda Civic Imagine CDTi 5Dr, Racing Green, low mls....£3,495
02 51 Renault Clio Privilege 1.4 16v Auto, Silver, 24000 Miles £2,995
02 02 Toyota Corolla T3 5Dr, Graphite £2,495

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00 W Mercedes Benz C180 Sport Auto Saloon, Silver £1,995

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05 PP Audi Cabriolet 3.0 Auto, Denim Blue, Heated Leather Seats £4,995
01 51 Megane Monaco Coupe, Blue, Leather trim £2,295
98 R Rover 820 Sterling Coupe, Oyster Gold, A future Classic....£1,995

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2005, Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 Club 16v 5dr £2,995
2004, Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 (3dr Hatchback), Petrol, Red....£2,695
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2003, Rover 75 Disel Bluc SD (4dr Saloon), Blue £2,500
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2001, Peugeot 106 1.1 (3dr Hatchback), Petrol, Silver....£1,995
2001, Rover 75 1.8 (4dr Saloon), Petrol, Blue £1,500
2001, Vauxhall Astra SXi (5dr Hatchback), Petrol, Silver £2,795
2001, Rover 75 2.0 Conosseur SE CDT, Diesel Auto....£3,500
2001 Jaguar X-Type 2.5 4dr Saloon, immaculate £1,995
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skittles news

ILMINSTER & DISTRICT LEAGUE

NOMINATION CUP - GRP A

Rockeys Rollers 188-3 (I.Finlay 33, A.Rockett 20) Nomads 190-9 (I.Miller, L.Bond 36, C.Miller 11) Flying Turkeys All-stars 208-3 (J.Dark 36, W.Spurway 15) Hatch Beagles 225-9 (D.Hutchings 41, R.Miller 9), Bell Broadway 226-2 (T.Robinson, T.Bishop 34, B.Hill 19) Royal Oak Faces 268-10 (D.Manley 41, K.Taylor 26).

Division One	Pld	Pts
Rockey's Rollers	6	55
Royal Oak Faces	6	54
Flying Turkeys All's	6	46
Nomads	6	45
Hatch Beagles	6	37
Bell Broadway	6	29
Flying Turkeys	5	22
Crown Royals	5	18
Hatch Eggs	6	5

NOMINATION CUP - GROUP B

Ilton Choppers 250-3 (C.Hilton 41, M.Farwell 16) Ashill Inn 259-9 (W.Dopson 41, D.Horse 19), King's Head 250-2 (I.Kendall 47, G.Merrick 20) Crown Crusaders 287-10 (L.Loveless 45, C.Bird 30), Ashill Boys 215-3 (J.White 46, D.Sutton 15) Cricketers 232-9 (N.Matravers39, T.Lloyd 17), Bell A 282-12 (S.Hooper 49) Wyndham Clangers 221-0 (T.Lucas 42).

Group B	Pld	Pts
Cricketers	6	63
Crown Crusaders	6	53
Bell A	6	47
King's Head	7	43
Ashill Inn	6	36
Wyndham Warriors	6	35
Ashill Boys	6	27
Ilton Choppers	7	17
Wyndham Clangers	6	15

CREWKERNE LEAGUE

Division One	Pld	Pts
Lost Boys	11	104
Super Sexy Six	11	95
Headhunters	11	79
Royal Oak Drimpton	11	72
Coachmen	11	70
Football Club	11	70
Stray Cats	11	69
Muddled Men	11	60
Con Club Legends	11	52
Raptors	11	48
King Willy Dogs	11	39
The Fryers	10	34

Division Two	Pld	Pts
Club Fixers	10	88
Perrott Monkeys	11	76
Rollers	11	75
Muppets	11	74
Fuddlers	11	68
Brewers Bees	11	68
Nomads	10	67
Skimmers	11	64
Pinbusters	11	57
Rug Rats	11	54
Concorde	11	47
Sports 92	11	42

Division Three	Pld	Pts
Acorns	11	104
Chis Colts	11	94
The Likely Lads	11	69
Loud & Proud	10	64
Hung Like Horses	11	64
Knappers	11	61
Sandbaggers	10	59
Beer Leg Boys	11	57
Ugly Ducklings	11	56
Rotary	11	55
Kings Men	11	51
Willy Low Flyers	11	46

darts
chard & dist

Premier	Pld	Pts
BDB's	8	131
Rejects Return	7	111
High 4 & a Half	7	109
Clubbers	8	106
New Order	7	104
Hobnobs	8	91
Pig Jockeys	8	90
Phoenix Poppes	7	77
Downs	7	77
Hopefuls	7	68

Division One	Pld	Pts
Country Classics	9	138
Happy Sharks	8	87
Pop Darts	8	80
Cult of Personality	8	78
Pirates	8	77
Stumpy's Gang	8	72
Madhouse Crew	6	50
PA's	7	50
From Small Acorns	7	48
HRT	7	48

Division Two	Pld	Pts
We can do this	7	87
Winning Team	7	81
Best of a Bad Lot	8	78
Red Devils	8	75
Chard Remains	8	73
Happy Days	8	71
Two Minute Crew	6	64
Dizzy Tarts	7	63
Rare Breeds	7	63
B's Knees	8	58

horse racing point-to-point news

WITH GILL ARMSTRONG

Poquelin off to a flier at Larkhill

FORMER top chaser Poquelin made the perfect start to his pointing career in the Larkhill Racing Club Conditions race.

The 11-year-old picked off his rivals one by one under a confident ride from Will Biddick before strolling clear on the flat.

Formerly trained by seven-time champion NH trainer Paul Nicholls, for whom he won nine races including five Cheltenham chases, Poquelin was a first winner, at the second attempt, for Ditcheat handlers Andy Croskery and Lucinda Gould "Andy Stewart and Paul offered him to us and Lucinda owns him with Dave Staddon, John Gane and Tim Yeoman," explained Andy.

"He's stabled at Alhampton, Will hunts him, I ride him out in my lunch hour and Lucinda mucks out. The idea is to have some fun, so he'll probably stay pointing."

Two 16-year-old riders opened their accounts at the meeting. Megan Nicholls, daughter of Paul Nicholls, got off the mark when the Stewart family's Gwanako came from off the pace in the AGA Ladies Open.

"I gave Gwanako too much to do when we were runner-up at Wadebridge in December, but he's jumped his way into contention today and stayed on very strongly," said Megan.

"I'll be concentrating on my studies at King's Bruton for the next 18 months, but he and my other pointer, Join Together, will give me plenty of experience and fun in the meantime."

Gwanako is trained at Bruton by Paul Nicholls' assistant head girl, Rose Loxton, who has looked after the Stewart family's Big Buck's since the four-time World Hurdle winner arrived at the Nicholls yard from France in 2007.

West Buckland schoolboy Chester Williams, son of Devon trainer Nick Williams, made the perfect start aboard his mother Jane's Maiden winner Un Ami.

"Chester was unseated from Un Ami when cannoned into during his only ride over hurdles at Exeter in October," revealed Jane, whose daughter Lizzie Kelly hit the national headlines when winning on Aubusson at Cheltenham on New Year's Day.

"Un Ami is best when held up, but we wanted him and Chester to get round safely after Exeter, so we've deliberately raced him prominently round the outside today."

Trainer Sally Randell enjoyed her first success from her new Eastbury yard with Maiden winner Flan The Man (Will Telfer).

The winner was bought privately by Peter Whittaker after being placed in his four Irish outings. "It's then taken us four months to get him fit," smiled Sally. "The plan is to go hunter chasing and he'll be very suited to long distance races and soft ground."

Rumbavu delighted Robert and Sam Waley-Cohen by making much of the running and repelling all challengers in the Men's Open.

"He's not very big and 12st 7lb is a lot for him to carry, but he's won 11 races now," smiled Robert. "If all's well, we'll run him the 3m-6f Lord Ashton of Hyde's Cup, at the Heythrop's new Cocklebarrow course on Sunday."

Most of Alskamatic's 23 owners were in the winner's enclosure after the eight-year-old had taken the Restricted under Claire Hart, despite jumping the last in third place.

"That's him – he stays and wears the others down," smiled Kingsclere trainer Richard Bandey. "He's been second in each of his five races since winning here last season, so he deserved that."

Results

Larkhill Racing Club at Larkhill Racecourse
Sunday, January 5th
Going: Good to soft, soft in places

LARKHILL RACING CLUB MEMBERS CONDITIONS (12 ran)
1. Poquelin (FR) (W Biddick, 10-11F); 2. Schindler's Prince (IRE) (J Ridley, 8-1); 3. Goodnight Vienna (IRE) (J Hill, 6-1). 6min 12s. 6l, nk. (Andrew Croskery).

AGA LADIES OPEN (8 RAN)
1. Gwanako (FR) (Miss M Nicholls, 6-4F); 2. On Borrowed Wings (IRE) (Miss E Rucker, 5-1); 3. Parstara (Miss B Andrews, 4-1). 6min 07s. 15l, 3l. (Rosemary Loxton).

OPEN MAIDEN (DIV 1) 567&8YO (10 RAN)
1. Flan The Man (IRE) (W Telfer, 9-2); 2. Go On Henry (IRE) (J Guerriero, 5-2F); 3. Vagner (IRE) (C Grant, 25-1). 6min 18s. 15l, 2l. (Sally Randell).

OPEN MAIDEN (DIV 2) 567&8YO (12 RAN)
1. Un Ami (FR) (C Williams, 7-2); 2. The Gunner Brady (IRE) (D Sutton, 7-1); 3. Subtle Sovereign (IRE) (J Barber, 7-2). 6min 21s. 2l, 3l. (Jane Williams).

MENS OPEN (10 RAN)
1. Rumbavu (IRE) (S Waley-Cohen, 10-1); 2. Bellsinni Ron (IRE) (W Biddick, 7-4F); 3. Coombe Hill (D Edwards, 7-2). 6min 16s. 8l, 3l. (Robert Waley-Cohen).

RESTRICTED (9 RAN)
1. Alskamatic (Miss C Hart, 6-4F); 2. Boardwalk Empire (IRE) (T Ellis, 5-1); 3. Beau Viveur (Z Baker, 16-1). 6min 25s. 1l, 2l. (Richard Bandey).

■ **HAPPY TO HELP:** Club sponsor James Down hands over a set of playing kit to player-manager Matt Alford (Orange shirt) and the rest of the West & Middle Chinnock FC squad.

bowls round-up

Taunton just too strong

ILMINSTER *with Des Maull*

THE Monday, In the first of the Somerset Ladies League games in 2014 Ilminster played **Taunton BC** losing on both rinks by 28 shots (29 to 57).

Details: Home, Sue Donavan, Rita Grout, Barbara Turner and Penny Stow 19, J Young 31.

Away, Myra Childs, Hilary Leamon, Eileen Becky and June Checkets 10 F Hunt 26;

The Ladies also played a 3rd round National Triples against St Andrews BC (WSM).

Details: Heather Grinter, Dot Whelan & June Checkets 23 A Campbell 16;

The men were also in action at home in the 2nd round of the County 4s against **Watchet BC** - Ilminster winning by four shots (25 to 21). Details: Gerry Morris, Ian Lightfoot, Jason Miles & Mark Denslow 25 S Steel 21.

On Sunday Ilminster welcomed **Crewkerne** for a five-rink friendly Ilminster winning on all rinks and by 120 shots to 56. Details: Lyn Williams, Heather Sims, Andy Williams & Barry Sims 29 R Partridge 8; John Pemberton, Derek Carter, Penny Stow & Cyril Cox 20 S Lefevre 12; Norma Pugh, Mike King, Brian Welch & Heather Grinter 18 T Moll 16; Val Dargue, Roy Orme, Silvia Read & Ken Leamon 20 J Ramsey 11; Hilary Leamon, David Pugh, Roger Brown & Tony Cole 33 P Stringer 9.

MERRIOTT *with Jean Crisp*

FIFTEEN members of Merriott Bowls Club recently spent a very enjoyable bowls weekend at a hotel in Torquay.

A series of games were played with members of other clubs. Merriott were very successful with Carol Parsons winning top lady and Nick Whitfield winning top gent.

■ **SEASIDE SUCCESS:** Merriott BC's Carol Parsons and Nick Whitfield

Chosen by Gary!

◆ YEOVIL Town fanatic Sammyjoe Steer received a late Christmas and birthday present when he heard he was the winner of ***The Weekender's*** competition to be the mascot at tomorrow"s Championship clash with high-riding Burnley.

Sammyjoe, who celebrated his 12th birthday on Christmas Eve, was one of dozens of entries from Glovers-mad youngsters throughout South Somerset, East Devon and West Dorset.

Sammyjoe lives in Plantantagenet Close in Yeovil and attends Westfield Academy.

After hearing the news, his mum said: "This the first competition Sammyjoe has ever won. He's thrilled to bits."

scrum-down rugby news

Hard fought defeat for Chard 2nds

NORTH PETHERTON 2ND XV 29
CHARD 2ND XV 7

THIS was one of the few games to survive the monsoon season - North Petherton have the best ground for soaking up the incessant rain we've all had to endure *writes Andrew Hopper*.

The result implies a comfortable home win, but that was far from the case, this was a tough, competitive game throughout with the eventual scorline flattering the hosts.

Chard attacked from the off and tested the home defence deep in their 22.

A 15-minute period of pressure created three clear-cut scoring chances for Chard which unfortunately weren't finished partly due to stoical defending by the hosts and partly due to a pass or two given too late.

It was frustrating and galling as Chard were due some reward for their purpose and enterprise.

North Petherton, on the receiving end for the first quarter, then got some momentum and put pressure on Chard in their own half.

Solid defending denied them, but they persisted in a period where they dominated territory and possession.

Eventually the pressure told and they crossed the visitors line twice before half time, both tries were not converted.

Petherton, leading 10-0, were first out of the blocks after the turnaround and much of the action took place in the Chard half of the field.

Again the visitors' defensive effort and competitive spirit with fine tackling from Billy Brookes and Chris Doel stood out, but every man did his bit.

The size and weight of the home pack was a significant advantage with Chard having the smallest pack in the league.

Despite this, the Chard forwards competed heroically and in the scrums were noticeably in the ascendancy a fact frequently commented upon by the home supporters.

At length the bulk factor began to produce results for the hosts, using their weight and bulk to keep the ball tight and rumble over the Chard line from close range to seal the game.

The never-say-die spirit of the visitors continued to the end and they were eventually rewarded as young fly-half Sam Mouland dived over from close range following good field position earned by the pack.

Elsewhere, Chard 1st XV's scheduled vist by St Austell was postponed as was the 3rd XVs gane was Castle Carey 2nds.

Tomorrow's games

Chard v Bideford,
Chard 2nds v Castle Carey
(at Crewkerne Road ground),
Yatton 2nds v Crewkerne,
Burnham-on-Sea v Chard 3rd XV,
Castle Carey 2nds v Crewkerne 2nds.

As they stand

Toolstation D1	Pld	+/-	Pts
Bradford Town	23	75	65
Shepton Mallet	22	38	51
Welton Rovers	24	24	47
Wellington	24	10	45
Cribbs	27	10	44
Wincanton Town	24	28	41
Devizes Town	24	-1	38
Barnstaple Town	21	14	37
Wells City	23	8	37
Almondsbury UWE	25	-6	36
Roman Glass St G	24	-3	35
Ashton & Backwell	20	1	33
Corsham Town	22	-22	32
Calne Town	25	-1	30
CHARD TOWN (15th)	***25***	***-3***	***29***
Chippenham Park	24	-14	27
Cheddar	22	-16	26
Westbury United	24	-11	25
Warminster Town	25	-25	22
Keynsham Town	24	-32	18
Oldland Abbotonians	25	-31	15
Portishead Town	25	-43	11

Somerset Premier	Pld	+/-	Pts
Shirehampton	18	45	44
Clutton	17	20	38
Nailsea Utd	17	18	38
Fry Club	19	28	37
Stockwood Green	21	-2	33
Watchet Town	14	13	31
Minehead	17	20	30
Berrow	17	9	30
Cutters Friday	17	-5	23
Bishops Lydeard	19	-6	22
Weston St Johns	17	-8	22
Yatton Athletic	21	-11	21
Nailsea Town	18	-11	20
Bridgwater Town Res	18	-18	19
Langford Rovers	18	-10	18
Street Res	17	-23	15
ILMINSTER TOWN	***15***	***-19***	***10***
Odd Down Res	18	-40	4

Somerset D2W	Pld	+/-	Pts
Cleeve West Town	16	34	37
North Curry	17	23	34
Glastonbury	14	24	31
Winscombe	16	12	29
Portishead Town Res	15	10	29
COMBE St NICHOLAS	***18***	***19***	***28***
Staplegrove	14	14	28
Wells City Res	14	9	25
Uphill Castle	16	21	24
Kewstoke Lions	16	1	24
Worle	17	0	24
Nailsea Utd Res	16	-4	20
Churchill Club	18	-39	15
Burnham Utd Res	15	-31	14
Cheddar Res*	17	-19	11
Nailsea Town Res*	16	-22	5
Weston St Johns Res	21	-55	4

D&E Premier Div	Pld	+/-	Pts
Newtown	12	43	34
St Martins	10	47	27
Feniton	10	22	23
Seaton Town	14	0	22
Budleigh Salterton Res	16	-21	20
Exeter University Res	11	-3	18
Tiverton Town Res	8	16	16
Hatherleigh Town*	10	3	15
Thorverton	10	-9	15
Topsham Town	15	-11	15
CHARD TOWN RES	***13***	***5***	***14***
Beer Albion	13	-14	14
Willand Rovers Res	14	-8	13
Heavitree Utd	12	-41	5
Clyst Valley	12	-29	4

** = points deducted*

PSDL

Premier	Pld	+/-	Pts
Crewkerne Town	9	23	23
Perry Street	10	21	22
Lyme Regis	7	19	19
W&M Chinnock	9	3	14
Shepton Beauchamp	9	12	14
Beaminster	6	2	12
Misterton	8	0	11
Millwey Rise	9	0	9
Ilminster Town Res	8	-16	6
Combe Res	7	-15	4
Winsham Utd	12	-49	0

Division One	Pld	+/-	Pts
South Petherton	9	25	23
Perry Street Res	9	23	22
Lyme Regis Res	8	17	19
Forton Rangers	10	10	18
Barrington	11	2	14
Pymore	10	-4	13
Farway Utd	11	-8	13
Netherbury	9	-4	10
Beaminster Res	11	-39	4
Uplyme	10	-22	3

Division Two	Pld	+/-	Pts
Luso-Chard*	12	24	25
Chard Utd	8	31	24
Charmouth	11	13	21
Thorncombe	11	11	21
Waytown Hounds	10	15	20
Combe A	11	8	18
Ilminster Colts	12	-24	12
Crewkerne Rangers	10	-9	11
Dowlish & Donyatt	13	-20	8
Crewkerne Town Res	11	-19	6
South Petherton Res*	11	-30	2

Division Three	Pld	+/-	Pts
Barrington Res	9	17	21
Drimpton	8	11	19
Lyme Bantams	9	9	17
Chard Utd Res	10	0	17
Hawkchurch Utd	10	6	16
Shepton Beau Res	8	10	14
Millwey Rise Res	9	-1	11
Ilminster Town A	8	-5	9
Winsham Utd Res	11	-27	5
Chard Rangers	10	-20	3

Division Four	Pld	+/-	Pts
Kingsbury Episcopi	12	31	31
Merriott Dynamos	12	40	28
Thorncombe Res	10	19	21
Forton Rangers Res	9	17	19
Combe B	11	10	17
Misterton Reserves	9	0	16
Crewk Rangers Res	10	-10	9
Uplyme Res*	10	-7	8
Hinton St George	11	-22	7
Farway Utd Res	11	-43	4
Chard Rangers Res	11	-35	3

** = Pts deducted*

LOCAL FOOTBALL NEWS

WITH Howard Larcombe

twitter @HowardLarcombe

Dazzling Dibling leads march to final

MAVIS TATE CUP SEMI-FINAL
Perry Street & Dist League 4
Weston-super-Mare League 2
(January 4th - at Worle FC)

THE PSDL booked a place the Mavis Tate cup final with a 4-2 win over the Weston-super-Mare League on the all-weather 3G pitch at Worle FC on Saturday.

A sluggish start from the visitors saw Weston grab a 14th minute lead. But this was cancelled out 10 minutes later when Millwey Rise's Sam Dibling picked out South Petherton striker Jodie Bovey who lashed the ball into the roof of the net from an acute angle.

Dibling then edged the PSDL ahead with a stunning 25-yard drive in the 38th minute.

The second-half was midway through when Dibling struck again – this time with a long-range free-kick that curled around the defensive wall leaving the home keeper rooted to the spot.

Weston responded well to reduce the arrears to 3-2 in the 77th minute and then bombarded the visitors' goal but the defence stood firm with centre-backs Jason Manley (Crewkerne Town) and Elliot Dyer (Millwey Rise) in commanding form.

At the other end Man-of-the-Match Dibling went agonizingly close to completing a magnificent hat-trick with yet another long-range thunderbolt that cannoned back off the post.

The scoring was completed four minutes from time when Liam Riste tapped in after good work by substitute and Perry Street FC team mate Dan Collins.

The PSDL manager Karl Diment said: "I had eight or nine unavailable and am grateful to the lads who stepped in at short notice."

The win sets up a repeat of last season's final against the Bridgwater League – the match is set to be played in late March.

PSDL Team: Rich Pippen (Shepton Beauchamp), Josh Parsons, Jason Manley (both Crewkerne Town), Sam Johnson (Perry Street), Elliot Dyer, Sam Dibling (both Millwey Rise), Murray Legg (Beaminster), Jason Rendell (Crewkerne Town), Braeden Symes, Liam Riste (both Perry Street), Jody Bovey (South Petherton).

Subs: Dan Collins (Perry Street), Gordy Childs, Tom Case, Lee Holt, Karl Diment (all South Petherton).

Round-up

Saturday - January 4th

IN the Toolstation Western League the Premier Division games at Ilfracombe (1-3 v Cadbury Heath) and Winterbourne United (0-5 v Bristol Manor Farm) were the the only ones to survive the floods.

Chard Town will be hoping to return to Division One action tomorrow with the visit of Wells City.

Robins' Manager Adam Fricker will be without the injured George Chlopecki and Ben Haines who is unavailable due to exams. In addition Sam Spurway begins a three-game ban while Jamie Underwood is suspended for a further two matches.

Fricker also has a doubt over striker Sam Clark who he only rates as a 50/50 chance of making the squad, Fricker said: "Ideally we'd like to give him another week's rest to ensure he is fully recovered."

***Squad**: Jason Hutchings, Mark Armstrong, Leigh Bailey, Mark Scott, Jamie Barfoot, Oscar Latis, Gary Warren, Ed Butcher, Taoufik Ben Salem, Andy Martin, Mike McCormack, Nathan Warren, Darren Hutchings, Sam Clark.*

It was a similar story down in the Errea Somerset League where the all-weather 3G pitch saw Keynsham Town Reserves beaten 2-0 at home in the only match played.

Ilminster Town will have fingers crossed for their first game in a month when they welcome Yatton Athletic at the Rec tomorrow (2pm ko).

Despite a run of six successive defeats the omens look good for the Blues whose last league win came in the reverse fixture at Hangstones back in September.

On that day Louis Gillman, Nick Whaites and Mike Whitefield scored in a 3-1 win.

Ilminster also defeated tomorrow's opponents 3-0 in a Premier cup-tie at the Rec in October with Whaites (2) and Charlie Rutter on target.

Meanwhile, **Combe St Nicholas** will look to extend their five-game unbeaten run when they head off to face mid-tablers Wells City Reserves. A win could take the Saints back up into the top four in Division Two (west).

Over in the Devon & Exeter League Premier Division **Chard Town Reserves** will look to put put further distance between themselves and the foot of the table when they travel to Silver Street where Willand Town Reserves lay in wait.

Stu Parris' side have stuttered of late and have recorded just one win in their last five outings.

PERRY STREET LEAGUE

THE only game scheduled for last Saturday was the **Division One Cup Final** between Lyme Regis Reserves and Perry Street Reserves at Crewkerne but this fell foul of the wet weather.

Tomorrow's games (weather permitting) sees Crewkerne Town and Shepton Beauchamp both bidding for a place in the quarter-finals of the **Somerset Junior Cup**.

If form is anything to go by Crewkerne, despite their own impressive first-half to the season, could have their hands full when they entertain Frome Town Sports.

The visitors currently boast a 100 percent record this season and are red-hot favourtites to lift the Mid-Somerset League Premier division title.

At the same time Shepton Beauchamp, cup winners in 81-82, 82-83 and 85-86, head off to wellington where Sampford Blues are their opponts.

The Blues currently sit fourth in the Taunton & District League Division One.

◆ **Thorncombe FC** are looking to freshen up their squad in the new year.

The Thorns have completed the transfer of Dan Rodber from Combe St Nicholas and have also put in the seven day's approach for Jamie Fletcher (Chard Rangers) and Liam Trott (Dowlish & Donyatt).

FIXTURES - January 11th
SOMERSET JUNIOR CUP
Round Four (16) - 1.45ko
Crewkerne Town v Frome Town Sports
Sampford Blues v Shepton Beauchamp
PREMIER (all 2pm)
Combe Res v Ilminster Town Res
Lyme Regis v Beaminster
Millwey Rise v Perry Street
Winsham Utd v Misterton
DIVISION ONE
Barrington v Forton Rangers
Beaminster Res v Netherbury
Pymore v Perry Street Res
South Petherton v Farway Utd
Uplyme v Lyme Regis Res
DIVISION TWO
Combe A v Crewkerne Rangers
Ilminster Town Colts v S.Petherton Res
Luso-Chard v Thorncombe
Waytown Hounds v Chard United
DIVISION THREE
Chard Utd Res v Ilminster Town A
Drimpton v Millwey Rise Res
Hawkchurch Utd v Barrington Res
Lyme Regis Bantams v Chard Rangers
Shepton Beauchamp Res v Winsham Utd Res
DIVISION FOUR
Crewkerne Rangers Res v Kingsbury Episcopi
Forton Rangers Res v Combe B
Hinton St George v Farway Utd Res
Misterton Res v Uplyme Res
Thorncombe Res v Merriott Dynamos

darts crewkerne & district

Div 1	Pld	Pts
Jokers	10	67
Famous Five	8	66
Royal Oak	8	63
Mighty Oaks	8	57
Slaps Lot	8	50
Bale Outs	9	43
Ragged Rebels	8	37
Cats Eyes	7	34
Chuck 'em & See	7	34
Happy's	7	32
Clubbers	7	28
Del Boys	7	11

180s: A.Hodges, J.Hodges, N.Hawker, P.Spurdle, L.Joy, D.Stubbs, A.Flooks, D.Rowley, G.Hill, N.Cheney, L.Cox, C.Studley, S.Whatley.
Highest Get Out: C.Adams 156.

Div 2	Pld	Pts
Rosies Rebels	8	66
Merriott Club	8	50
NSJL	8	49
The Dart Side	8	45
Friends	6	41
Smilers Lot	5	40
Allsorts	8	39
Misfits	7	33
Globetrotters	8	31
MPT	8	29
Wanderers	8	28

pool wessex league

Terry Hall 3-a-side cup
Quarter-final draw
Workies AC v Piston Broke, Phoenix v Phoenix Knights B, Howley HT v Avengers, Workies BB v Ringers.
◆ *Matches to be played on Sunday, January 19th.*

Glovers In Focus

By Stuart Broom

Finally Blatter has something sensible to say

FINALLY that obnoxious gnome of Zurich has come up with something we can all agree on – cheats!

The FIFA president Sepp Blatter has amazed the footballing world with such bizarre ideas as women playing in tighter shorts to increase the popularity of the womens game, and successfully campaigning for the 2022 World Cup to be played in Qatar in the summer where temperatures can top 45 degrees; a ploy it would seem to win votes to continue in office.

However, he has now come out in support of cutting out cheating by diving, simulating and play acting to feign injury, and for the first time ever I applaud him.

My two biggest moans in football are too many foreign players and cheating.

I have campaigned long and hard that the number of foreign players in our leagues is preventing good British players from coming through the system which in turn is affecting our national teams.

This argument appears to be gathering pace in the media but there appears to be no action being taken as the big clubs are driven by money both through rich benefactors and the television, making it a business and no longer a sport.

However, if the banning of cheats gets the backing of FIFA then something could be done about that.

Currently anyone deemed to have dived receives a yellow card, but still stays on the field.

On New Year's Day, Chelsea's Oscar was booked on 53 minutes for a very poor simulation of a dive which earned him a yellow card. On 82 minutes he scored the Blues third and final goal.

Is that fair? In this case it didn't make much difference except to Southampton's goal difference, but there have been cases where the cheat has scored the winning goal.

With the game scoreless, at worse, Oscar was hoping to win his team a penalty and at best also see Saints' keeper Kelvin Davies dismissed.

Shouldn't the cheats' punishment be the same - a red card?

The consensus of opinion from what I've read suggests a sin bin for the offender as in hockey and rugby.

That doesn't seem severe enough to me; they can still return and influence a game.

Let's send a message to these despicable characters and send them off.

If, as for other red card offences, they or the club feel the referee got it wrong, they can appeal, but show you mean to stamp it out.

Unfortunately the main offenders are foreign players, another reason for limiting their numbers.

Let's support our referees, they have a hard enough job already.

Simulation and feigning injury is not restricted to the Premier League unfortunately, and it appears the higher the stakes the more there is.

I have seen a lot more of it at Huish Park this season now that Yeovil are in the Championship; Charlton Athletic's Yann Kermorgant being the top performer by a mile.

Progress in FA cup

It was great to see the Glovers knocking in goals again last Saturday, especially against Russell Slade's Leyton Orient as they have had the better of Yeovil over the past few seasons.

Although the O's were missing a few, as Gary Johnson said: "You can only beat what is put in front of you", and hopefully this will kick start the season.

Southampton at home would have been a better prospect for progressing to Wembley for the second season running, although there can be no complaints about visiting one of the bright, upcoming Premiership sides and a healthy crowd that will help fill the coffers.

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